**DISTANCE LEARNING & INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES**

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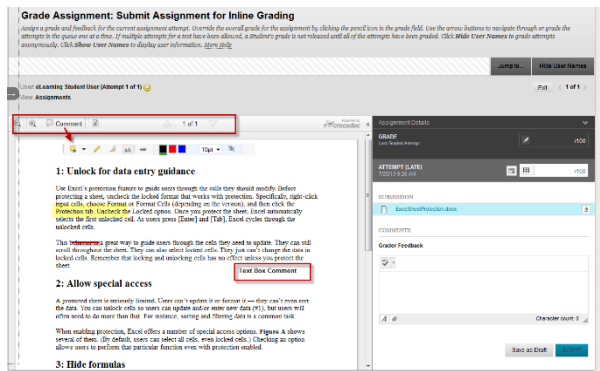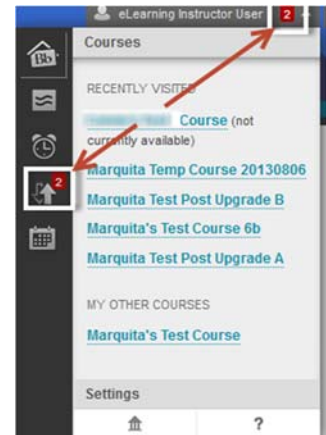
**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

In this week's newsletter we would like to highlight some of Blackboard features that can enhance your teaching experience.

### Global Navigation:

Global Navigation provides an aggregated view of your courses/organizations. The **Post** tool allows you to view, respond and even grade Discussion Board Posts, wikis and journals across all your courses. The **Updates** tool consolidates all your *Notifications* and displays course announcements, assignments, etc.

The **Retention Center** tool provides an aggregate, visual monitoring option to identify at-risk students across your courses with the ability to drill down into more detail. The enhanced **Calendar** feature allows you to view items for courses of assignment due dates, past due items and due "this week" items. Events are color coded by course/organization that easily allows you to identify items.

**Retention Center**: Replacing the old Early Warning System, the new Retention System provides instructors a way to identify, monitor and connect with "at risk" students earlier in the semester



**Inline Assignment Grading**: Student assignments can be viewed and graded within the browser without having to download the document.

- Word, PowerPoint, Excel and PDF are viewable with formatting and embedded images of the original document preserved.
- Instructors can add comments, grading notes and grade assignment in one place.
- Video: Overview of InLine Grading
http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r91/movies/bb91_inline_grading.htm



**Calendar**: The calendar now provides more features such as recurring events and drag and drop functionality.

- More closely integrated with assignment due dates in the course.
- Creating and adding a Due Date to an assignment, test or item will generate the event automatically in the course calendar for that day.
- Change the due date by drag/drop and the item in the calendar and the assignment due date and Grade Center due date will also update.



**Tests:** Instructors have control over delivery of tests, view student access and analyzing test questions

- **Test Availability Exceptions** allow instructors to select different options for test attempts; dates/times for individual students/groups
- **Test Access Log** gives instructors the ability to confirm whether students began a test or ran into problem during the test with access to detailed information on the student attempt

- **Item analysis** provides statistics on overall test performance and on individual test questions. The data can be used to improve questions or adjust credit on current attempts.



### Overview of UNT Dallas' Online Quality Assurance Checklist

The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies is responsible for reviewing all distance learning (online and hybrid) courses based on the quality standards.  With the increase of quality assurance standards for the Spring 2016 semester, our office offered a workshop to review the new standards in detail in hopes of assisting faculty developing a quality online course for the spring semester.  A total of 30 faculty members participated in one of the 6 sessions that were offered before the start of this semester.

Topics discussed during this session included a:

1. Review of UNTD's online quality standards adopted for Spring 2016
2. Review of online content in the UNTD Faculty Example Template course shell that meets our checklist instrument.

Presented by Cynthia Johnson, Instructional Design Coordinator

If you missed these sessions here are the links for the YouTube archived recordings of the last two sessions that were offered on Friday, January 15.

**Archived recording**: https://youtu.be/82fFjnOXtXQ



### Blackboard Open Lab

Whether you're just starting work on your summer or fall course or putting on those finishing touches in your spring courses, visit our Blackboard Open Labs for advice, assistance, or simply a collegial place to work. We will have worksheets, information and ideas on constructing assignments. Staff from the Office of DLIT will be available to discuss online/hybrid/traditional course design and help with Blackboard or other instructional technology. Please note, there is no formal program and there's no need to make an appointment. This is a drop-in-whenever-you-can event.

Tuesday, January 26, between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM in DAL1, Rm 336

Register **here**.

### How Does Blackboard Work?

You have been assigned an online course. The only problem is that you have never used Blackboard.

This workshop will give a brief introduction on to get started with using Blackboard

LEARN. This workshop will also focus on creating content, course navigation, the course style, and the process of planning, adding and organizing links on the course menu.

This workshop will show you the following features:

1. Navigating the Course Layout
2. Creating Course Content
3. Using Communication Tools
4. Editing the Course Menu

Presented by Brian Miller, Digital Media Instructional Designer
Wednesday, January 27 (5:30 PM—7:00 PM), DAL1, Rm 336
Register **here**.

Are you looking for ways to better engage students with your feedback? Perhaps, you are thinking about the sequencing of course material or courses? Are you greeted every semester by a new cohort of students who struggle to grasp the concept of plagiarism? Join us for our new Turnitin webcast series where educators across disciplines will share their best plagiarism prevention practices or feedback strategies. Next week we'll start the series with the following webcast:

**Office Hours: Students Share Successful Feedback Tips**

What do students say about the types of feedback they receive? Join us for this special "office hours," held by students who will share their insights into the approaches, strategies, and technologies that work best for improving their success. This session features a panel of students and recent graduates from UC Berkeley who will discuss the impact of the types and timing of feedback they receive as well as the feedback they find most meaningful and helpful.

Presenters:
Benjamin VanDerHeyden, sophomore at UC Berkeley majoring in Mechanical Engineering
Nathan Malone, freshman at UC Berkeley majoring in Business and Economics
Kenneth Balibalos, Economics graduate from UC Berkeley.
Thursday, January 28 (11:00 AM - 11:45 AM), Founders Hall, Rm 127
Register **here**.

(Click the images to read the articles)

## Online vs. F2F Classroom Learning: The Ultimate Showdown!

### Which is the Best Place to Learn?

This article describes the pros and cons of learning in the classroom versus online.

### So which is the best place to learn: online or in a classroom?

Well, it all depends… choose the best way depending on the type of material and situation.

What is your experience about online and in-class teaching and learning? Share your comments with us!

Read more…

Chances are your students come from many different cultural backgrounds.
Is your content culturally sensitive?



How to Be Culturally Sensitive with Your eLearning
Courses - eLearning...

Creating eLearning content that plays well across cultural lines is an important
endeavor. Read through to find out how to properly navigate these...

ELEARNINGBROTHERS.COM

Read more…

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| **FEB 1** | **UI Design Principles for E-Learning**<br>*[Brown Bag Lunch Series]*<br>(12:00 PM)<br>Founders Hall, Rm 127 | **FEB 8** | **Video Captioning Features, Costs,**<br>**Good Practices, and How**<br>**Captioning Benefits All Students**<br>*[Brown Bag Lunch Series]*<br>(12:00 PM)<br>Founders Hall, Rm 127 |
| **FEB 2** | **Blackboard Open Lab**<br>(2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)<br>DAL1, Rm 336 | | |
| **FEB 3** | **Teaching with Technology** *[eFLC]*<br>(3:00 PM – 4:00 PM)<br>Founders Hall, Rm 127 | **FEB 9** | **What's Wrong with Wikipedia?**<br>**Best Practices for Evaluating**<br>**Student Sources**<br>*[Turnitin Webcast Series]*<br>(1:00 PM - 1:30 PM)<br>Founders Hall, Rm 127 |
| **FEB 4** | **Unlocking The Grade Center**<br>*[Workshop]*<br>(2:30 PM - 4:00 PM)<br>DAL1, Rm 336 | **FEB 10** | **Hybrid/Online Teaching** *[eFLC]*<br>(3:00 PM – 4:00 PM)<br>Founders Hall, Rm 127 |
| | | **FEB 11** | **Millennials, E-learning, And The**<br>**Evolving Workplace** *[Live Webinar]*<br>(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)<br>Founders Hall, Rm 127 |

**Contact Us!**

The **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies** invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for our workshops and sessions!

Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:

Web: http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit
Phone: 972-338-5580
Email: UNTDDistance@unt.edu

To unsubscribe: If you would like to be removed from this list please click here.

**Arturo Cole, M.S.**
*Director - Office of Distance Learning*
*and Instructional Technology*

University of North Texas at Dallas
Office of Distance Learning
7400 University Hills Blvd, Ste. 123
Dallas, Texas 75241
972.338.1606 | untdallas.edu/dlit